



Generation Fear

Overcoming Fear of Death

March 18, 2018 / Dan Solofra

Fear is: False Evidence Appearing Real

Physical death is the separation of _____ and _____.

Spiritual death is separation from _____.

⁵⁰ I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. **1 Corinthians 15:50, NIV**

Many live in _____ of the fact that death will ever come.

We will all face death, now it is just a matter of _____.

Death can actually be a _____ to sinful man.

⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. **1 Corinthians 15:51-52, NIV**

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" **John 11:25-26, NIV**

Death isn't the _____ of the story. _____ continues even after physical death takes place.

² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. **1 John 3:2, NIV**

⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. **1 Corinthians 15:53, NIV**

After death, the way we look and feel will be _____.

⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in **victory**."

⁵⁵ "Where, O death, is your **victory**? Where, O death, is your sting?" **1 Corinthians 15:54-55, NIV**

Right now death is doing _____. He is using it as a _____ to heaven. One day he will _____ it.

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the **victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 15:56-57, NIV**

By dying on the cross, Jesus took the _____ out of death.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let **nothing move you**. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. **1 Corinthians 15:58, NIV**

Jesus' victory over death has given me a _____ and _____ on which I can build my life.

MEMORY VERSE

⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the **victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 15:57, NIV**

My next step: Jesus has defeated death. I don't need to fear it. I can actually embrace it! I will spend my life building on this foundation and sharing the way to eternal life.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.

Impact Group Questions

Generation Fear – Overcoming the fear of death

Living with death

We live with death around us all the time and our society has at the same time sanitized death. Let's start with "virtual" death around us to see how this is true.

- 1) How many "virtual" people do you think *you have seen* die in the last week, month, and in your lifetime? This includes video game deaths and deaths you have seen on TV and in movies. (FYI – 255 deaths in saving Private Ryan, Lord of the Rings: Return of the King - 2,700 deaths)
- 2) If you are a video game player how many virtual lives have you taken? (*Call Of Duty: Black Ops* - 60 billion virtual soldiers have been killed in the game's history.)
- 3) How many times have you died in a video game?

Now compare this with reality. How many dead bodies have you seen in person in the last week, month or lifetime?

What effects can it have on us when virtual death is all around us, but real death is not near us?

God Speaks

Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

In these verses the apostle Paul is taking death from an academic exercise to the very personal experience that each one of us will have. Who is the closest person that you have had die to you?

How did going through the death of this loved one start to prepare you for facing death?

Why type of emotions did you face as you dealt with the death of the person close to you?

According to verses 50-53 why is death a necessary process for us to go through? How does remembering this help us deal with the death of a loved one and (one day) our own?

Our Hero Over Death

In verse 54-57 we are directed to Jesus' victory over sin and death. Why was death so "stinging" before the death of Jesus?

What does it mean that Jesus took the sting out of death?

Why is a caterpillar turning into a butterfly or seed being planted and then growing good examples of what happens at death?

Explain: My spiritual life doesn't start when I die, it started when I came to faith in Jesus.

Make an Impact

In verse 60 we are encouraged to stand firm and to labor in the Lord. In what way does our relationship to Jesus give us both a foundation and a platform on which we can live our life?

Easter is a little more than a week away. Consider how you can use Easter as an opportunity to invite your friends, relatives and neighbors to join us at CrossWalk. Remember to take time to pray for them and then to take time to invite them!

Close with prayer